

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
**COUNCIL POLICY**

CURRENT

SUBJECT: SELF-SUSTAINING RESERVOIR RECREATION PROGRAM  
POLICY NO.: 400-03  
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 11, 1993

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of San Diego has conducted a Lakes Recreation Program since the establishment of the City's municipal reservoir system in 1913. The primary purpose of the City's reservoir system is the impoundment and production of a safe, domestic water supply. Public recreation is, by necessity, a secondary but highly valuable byproduct of the reservoir system.

Historically, patronage of municipal reservoirs was based primarily on special interest activities such as fishing, waterfowl hunting and camping. Council Policy 400-3 was originally developed to ensure that the City Lakes Recreation Program operates on a self-sustaining basis with user fees offsetting all associated costs of the program.

As a result of general growth in San Diego and residential development around municipal reservoirs (particularly Murray and Miramar), public usage and policies for public access have changed significantly from and orientation toward revenue producing, special interest activities to non-revenue producing community use activities and access. As a result of this shift and changes in public demand, it is no longer possible or equitable for special interest users to bear the financial burden of the entire City Lakes Recreation Program.

**PURPOSE:**

It is the intention of the City Council that the San Diego City Lakes Recreation Program continue to provide broad-based leisure and recreational opportunities for the citizens of and visitors to the City of San Diego. General water rates will be used to offset all costs associated with basic levels of public access, community usage and related grounds and facility maintenance (Tier I). Reasonable user fees will continue to offset the direct costs associated with Tier II Traditional Recreation Programs (fishing, boating and waterfowl hunting) and Tier III Water Contact Program (water-skiing, jetskiing, boardsailing) activities.

**POLICY:**

The City Council recognizes that the primary purpose of the municipal reservoir system is the impoundment and production of a safe municipal water supply. The City Lakes Recreation Program is highly valued by the citizens of San Diego for the leisure and recreation activities it provides. Aside from the primary purpose of providing for the municipal water supply, public access, recreation and protection of natural watershed, are the most valuable public benefit and goal of all reservoir system management. With the intent of funding that program on an equitable basis and supplementing revenues collected from

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special interest users, the Manager is authorized to utilize general water rates to ensure basic levels of free public access, development and maintenance of grounds/facilities.

CROSS REFERENCE:

Municipal Code Sec. 67.41

HISTORY:

Adopted by Resolution R-172824 09/27/1962  
Amended by Resolution R-211482 09/05/1974  
Amended by Resolution R-254869 08/24/1981  
Amended by Resolution R-281341 01/11/1993